



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.T.E. 06-46

June 8, 2006

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own motion as to the propriety of the rates and charges set forth in the following tariffs: The Berkshire Gas Company, M.D.T.E. 381 through M.D.T.E. 392, filed on May 15, 2006, to become effective September 1, 2006.

On May 15, 2006, The Berkshire Gas Company ("Berkshire" or "Company") submitted its third annual rate adjustment filing, pursuant to the performance-based ratemaking plan approved by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") in The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 01-56 (2002). The Department docketed this matter as D.T.E. 06-46.

Berkshire proposes an increase in normalized revenues of \$738,920, which amounts to a base revenue increase of 2.74 percent. If the Department approves the Company's proposal, the proposed rates will result in:

- an increase of \$0.77 per month for residential gas non-heating customers using 20 therms per month in the winter season; and,
- an increase of \$1.99 per month for residential gas heating customers using 150 therms per month in the winter season.

Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. For specific impacts, please contact the Company as indicated below. Berkshire requested that the proposed rate increase take effect on September 1, 2006.

Any persons wishing to submit written comments regarding this filing should submit one (1) original and eight (8) copies with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Thursday, June 29, 2006. One copy of all written

comments should also be sent to the Company's attorney, James M. Avery, Brown Rudnick, One Financial Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02111. Reply comments are due by the close of business on Friday, July 7, 2006.

All written comments should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us and Andrea.Saia@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" disk. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding, (D.T.E. 06-46), (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document (e.g., comments). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be created in either Corel WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or as an Adobe-compatible PDF file. Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Web site: <http://www.mass.gov/dte/>.

A copy of the Company's filing is on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts for public viewing during business hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.). Copies are also on file for public viewing at Berkshire's offices, 115 Cheshire Road, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01202-1388. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact James M. Avery, Esq. at (617) 856-8112. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact the Hearing Officer, Andrea Saia at (617) 305-3500.



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DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.T.E. 06-46

June 8, 2006

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own motion into the propriety of the rates and charges set forth in the following tariffs: The Berkshire Gas Company, M.D.T.E. 381 through M.D.T.E. 392, filed on May 15, 2006, to become effective September 1, 2006.

The Berkshire Gas Company ("Company") is required to serve a copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments on the service lists of The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 05-43 (2005), The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 04-52 (2004), and The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 01-56 (2002), no later than Thursday, June 15, 2006 and also make return of service at the close of the comment period.

By Order of the Department,

/s/
Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary